

A Note on Hellgrammites in Eastern Tennessee

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Hellgrammites or larvae of the large and spectacular dobson fly (*Corydalis cornutus*) are found fairly frequently in the cool, fast flowing streams of eastern Tennessee, particularly in the mountainous section. They are locally known as "grampies" and are highly valued as bass or trout bait.

This observer has frequently found specimens while searching for dragonfly nymphs in such streams, usually under larger rocks. According to Comstock's *An Introduction to Entomology* (p. 287), these insects spend about three years in their larval stage, leaving the water to pupate under a stone or some other object on or near the bank of the stream. In view of this we wish to report the following interesting observation on the terrestrial wandering of these larvae.

On May 11 and 12, 1946, the writer with a party of students stayed at Kinzel Springs, about 25 miles northwest of Gatlinburg, Tennessee. This resort is located on Little River just outside the Smoky Mountain Reserve. At about 10:30 P.M. several students brought in a large hellgrammite from the roadway just outside the cottage. Further investigation produced two additional larvae, all walking along the same roadbed. The roadbed was some 200 to 300 feet from the river and raised about 15 to 20 feet above the water level of the river. In many places the river bank was gently sloped and contained abundant rocks and other debris suitable for pupation of hellgrammites. Little River was high, due to recent rains, and carried considerable silt from upstream cultivated fields, but suitable pupating areas were abundant.

We are unable to offer an explanation for this wandering, but note that no hellgrammites were found on land the next morning, although several were taken in the stream. In addition, one large larva was found inside a cottage located on the edge of the stream, but some 15 feet above the water level. The hellgrammite had crawled up the side of the cottage and through some opening into the bedroom, where it was found wandering about over the floor.

As larval measurements are not given in our available literature, the following dimensions of the two largest larvae are given herein: total length of body (a) 74 mm., (b) 71 mm.; width of head (a) 10.5 mm., (b) 9 mm.

Aedes tortilis (Theobald), a Mosquito New to the United States

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Aedes tortilis (Theobald) occurs in the Bahamas, Virgin Islands, and the Greater Antilles. So far as we are aware the species has never been taken in the United States, even on the Florida Keys. On August 28, 1945, a female specimen was captured in a light trap operated by Mr. J. H. Hause, Malaria Control in War Areas at Key West, Florida. As Key West is a port of entry for aircraft, this trap was set up with the cooperation of Mr. Hause by the writers for the purpose of checking on the possible implantation of exotic insects of Public Health interest.

Aedes tortilis has also been taken in the routine insect inspection of aircraft arriving at Miami, Florida, from quarantinable areas. A total of five dead females has been recovered as follows: September 27, 1944, on a plane from San Juan, Puerto Rico, via Guantanamo, Cuba (2 specimens); October 7, 1944, on a plane from Panama Canal Zone via Jamaica (1 specimen); August 20, 1945, on a plane from San Juan, Puerto Rico via Camaguey, Cuba (1 specimen); November 24, 1945, on a plane from Barranquilla, Colombia via Camaguey, Cuba (1 specimen).

There is a possibility that *Aedes tortilis* may have been recently introduced at Key West by aircraft.

The identification of the specimens has been confirmed by Dr. Alan Stone of the U. S. National Museum.